SILTY RANGE SITE

1. TOPOGRAPHY

a. This site occurs on nearly level to rolling uplands and high stream terraces. Slopes are commonly from 0 to 15 percent.

2. SOILS

- a. These are moderately deep to deep, well or moderately well drained, medium textured soils. Permeability is moderate and available water capacity is high.
- b. Soil taxonomic units common to this site are:

Boxwell loam
Chama loam and silt loam
Chanta clay loam and silty clay loam
Havre loam and silt loam
Marmarth loam
Patent loam and silt loam

See Section II-A for a complete list of soil taxonomic units and range sites.

3. POTENTIAL VEGETATION

- a. Cool-season midgrasses dominate the general appearance of this site with small amounts of shrubs. Principal species are western wheatgrass, needleandthread, green needlegrass, prairie junegrass, and blue grama. Other species are plains reedgrass, Sandberg bluegrass, bearded wheatgrass, red threeawn, and upland sedges. A variety of forbs make up about 10 percent of the total herbage production. Minor amounts of shrubs are common to the site.
- b. Continued heavy grazing by cattle results in a decrease of green needlegrass, prairie junegrass, porcupinegrass, and plains reedgrass. There is usually a temporary increase of western wheatgrass and needleandthread followed by a decrease of these species with heavy grazing. Species that increase are blue grama, Sandberg bluegrass, red threeawn, upland sedges, and fringed sagebrush. Undesirable forbs and shrubs may invade or increase with further deterioration.

- c. Approximate total annual production of this site in excellent condition is from 1350 to 1900 pounds of air-dry herbage per acre, depending on growing conditions.
- d. A detailed description of the vegetation in excellent condition is as follows:

Relative Percent Composition of the Potential Vegetation

	Mean Productivity	
	lbs/acre	% composition
Grasses Western wheatgrass Needleandthread Green needlegrass Prairie junegrass Blue grama	495 165 82 83 330	30 10 5 5 20
Plains reedgrass Porcupinegrass Sandberg bluegrass Bearded wheatgrass Red threeawn Other grasses	165	10
Grasslikes Penn sedge Threadleaf sedge Other sedges	82	5
Forbs		
Prairie coneflower Silverleaf scurfpea Large goatsbeard Prairie thermopsis Purple loco Woolly goldenrod Other forbs	165	10
Shrubs and half-shrubs Fringed sagebrush Western snowberry Silver sagebrush Buffaloberry Other shrubs	83	5
Total	1650	100

4. DOMESTIC LIVESTOCK GRAZING VALUE

a. This site is highly suited for both cattle and sheep grazing due to the diversity of plant species it supports. The best season of grazing is summer. The site also can be used for spring or fall grazing. Sites grazed in spring need periodic rest from grazing to improve and maintain the plant composition.

5. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE

a. This site is utilized by mule deer, white-tailed deer, and antelope for forage. Upland birds commonly found are the sharp-tailed grouse and mourning dove. Several small mammals use this site such as the coyote, jackrabbit, badger, and skunk. Upland songbirds are the chestnut-collared longspur, horned lark, lark bunting, and meadowlark. Sites with additional shrubs attract other species of birds such as the brown thrasher, gray partridge, robin, and Brewer's blackbird.

6. ESTHETIC AND RELATED VALUES

a. This site makes up a large part of the rolling grasslands and gives one the enjoyment of open space. A large array of flowering plants are commonly found in spring and summer. Several recreational uses are hunting, hiking, and winter sports.

7. HYDROLOGIC CHARACTERISTICS

a. This site is common to most watersheds and extensive in this vegetation zone. Runoff is medium on good to excellent condition, properly grazed range. Rate of water transmission is moderate for the soil profile.

8. A TYPICAL SITE LOCATION IN THIS AREA IS AS FOLLOWS